

Forest Management Cost Share Programs

Your forestland is an important natural resource...

.....but are you reaping the full benefits it has to offer while still maintaining its long-term investment potential? Healthy wildlife populations, effective watershed protection and maximum yields from timber harvests are all consistent with sustainable forest management. If you think your woods could use help in any of these areas, you may qualify for cost share assistance through federal programs designed just for you – the private landowner.

What can be cost-shared?

There are a number of different cost-share programs available. Depending upon which program best fits your situation, the follow practices might be covered:

Tree Plantings

Tree plantings can create large, contiguous blocks of new forest. This can also include smaller plantings to enlarge existing forests or plantings along streams and other riparian areas. Cost-share components include site preparation, purchase of seedlings, seedling planting and weed control for up to three years.

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)

TSI is a forest management tool used to improve forest health by thinning undesirable trees and releasing trees of higher value. It can also improve species composition, increase carbon sequestration and improve wildlife habitat.

Forest Roads Rehabilitation

This allows for improvement of existing access roads to ensure water quality and soil stabilization. These improvements may include establishment or repairs to water bars, drainage dips, culverts and bridges.

Wildlife Habitat Improvements

Projects may include releasing wildlife crop trees, wildlife tree and shrub plantings, and creating small wildlife openings within wooded areas. Creating ponds is not an eligible practice.

Forest Health and Protection

Woodland livestock grazing is very damaging to forest health, soil stability, wildlife habitat and timber quality. To protect the forest, fencing is used to exclude livestock from forest areas and may qualify for cost sharing.

Invasive Plant Control

This includes the detection and removal of invasive species by physical and/or chemical methods. The current target species include bush honeysuckle, glossy buckthorn, autumn olive, ailanthus, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu and others.

Fire & Catastrophic Rehabilitation

This does not commonly occur in Indiana, but cost share may be available in the event that it does.

What are the programs?

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish new forests and conservation covers on eligible farmland. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

For more information, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. The goal is to promote agricultural production while maximizing environmental quality. Various forest restoration activities are eligible for this program.

For more information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP encourages the creation of habitats that will benefit locally significant wildlife populations. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to control invasive plant species and to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their properties.

For more information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/pdf/WHIPfct.pdf

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore forests and wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water through cost sharing restoration work and crop rental payments.

For more information, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep.htm

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

WRP offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their properties including restoration of bottomland forests. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.

For more information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/

Indiana Woodland Restoration Program (IWRP)

IWRP is aimed at providing incentive funds for the enhancement and/or establishment of conservation practices such as tree planting, follow-up weed control, timber stand improvement and tree pruning.

For more information, [click here](#)

For more information about any aspect of managing your woodlands, contact your [District Forester](#) or the Division of Forestry at 317-232-4105. For specific cost share questions, contact the appropriate agency listed above.